



Intelligence Information Cable

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DIST 4 FEBRUARY 1969

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

DOI JANUARY 1969

SUBJECT 1. INCREASE IN CHINESE PRESENCE IN NORTH VIETNAM IN 1969
2. CONTINUED TENSIONS BETWEEN SOVIETS AND CHINESE
3. LACK OF IMPROVEMENT IN MARKET CONDITIONS

SUMMARY.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2001

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

ENDOF SUMMARY.

1. LIFE IS STILL DIFFICULT IN HANOI, AND THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN TERMS OF THE FOOD SUPPLY HAS IMPROVED. IN FACT, LESS IS AVAILABLE NOW THAN OVER A YEAR AGO. THE MARKETS REMAIN SMALL AND CARRY ONLY LOCAL PRODUCE. THERE IS NO ATTEMPT TO REOPEN THE MAIN CENTRAL MARKET. ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE WHO WERE EVACUATED FROM HANOI AT THE BEGINNING OF THE AMERICAN BOMBING HAVE RETURNED, STUDENTS AND MOST OFFICIALS STILL REMAIN OUTSIDE THE CITY. THERE HAS BEEN NO ATTEMPT TO BRING BACK GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT WERE RELOCATED OUTSIDE HANOI DURING THE BOMBING.

2. ANTIAIRCRAFT BATTERIES ARE NO LONGER SEEN IN THE CITY. THEY ALSO HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STRATEGIC AREAS AROUND THE CITY SUBURBS AND SENT TO THE SOUTH.

3. THERE ARE STILL MANY AREAS IN HANOI THAT ARE RESTRICTED TO FOREIGNERS. IN ONE OF THESE AREAS NEAR THE MAIN ELECTRIC PLANT IS

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A THREE-STORY BUILDING WITH CLOSED WINDOWS THAT WESTERNERS BELIEVE IS USED AS A PRISON FOR CAPTURED AMERICAN PILOTS. IN JANUARY 1969,

[REDACTED] SAW A HAND WAVE FROM ONE OF THE UPPER STORY WINDOWS WHICH ARE NORMALLY CLOSED BUT WHICH ON THIS OCCASION WERE OPEN. ONE WEEK LATER WHILE PASSING BY THIS BUILDING [REDACTED] OBSERVED A PIECE OF PAPER TIED TO A STRING OR WIRE DANGLING FROM ANOTHER UPPER STORIED WINDOW. WHEN HE APPROACHED THE BUILDING, THE PAPER WAS ABRUPTLY PULLED BACK INSIDE AND A GUARD, WHO SEEMED TO APPEAR FROM NOWHERE, RAN UP TO HIM AND TOLD HIM TO LEAVE THE AREA.

4. IN HAIPHONG SPECIAL RESTAURANTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR WESTERN SEAMEN, CHIEFLY SOVIET OR POLISH, AND OTHERS FOR CHINESE SEAMEN. THESE WERE SET UP IN AN ATTEMPT TO KEEP CHINESE AND SOVIETS APART, AND TO AVERT INCIDENTS SUCH AS HAD OCCURRED IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER OF 1968. NEVERTHELESS, TENSION BETWEEN CHINESE AND SOVIETS CONTINUES, PARTICULARLY IN HAIPHONG, AND THERE WERE SEVERAL FIST FIGHTS AND EXCHANGES OF INSULTS BETWEEN SMALL GROUPS OF SOVIETS AND CHINESE DURING JANUARY 1969.

5. IN MID-JANUARY, AFTER CROSSING THE DOUMER

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BRIDGE, [REDACTED] TRAVELER WAS DIVERTED FROM THE MAIN ROUTE TO BAC NINH AND WAS TOLD BY SOLDIERS AT THE ROAD JUNCTION AT THE EASTERN END OF THE DOUMER BRIDGE THAT THE ROAD COULD NOT BE USED. [REDACTED] OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WERE MANY TRUCKS CONTINUING ON THE ROAD TO BAC NINH, AND ASKED HIS CHAUFFER WHY HE WAS PREVENTED FROM CONTINUING. THE CHAUFFEUR REPLIED THAT THE SOLDIERS HAD ASSUMED HE WAS A SOVIET AND THAT THEY DID NOT WANT HIM TO OBSERVE THE NEARLY 200 CHINESE WORKERS WHO WERE ENGAGED IN REPAIRING THE DUONG BRIDGE.

6. THE NUMBER OF CHINESE WORKERS IN NORTH VIETNAM HAS SHARPLY INCREASED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1969, DESPITE NORTH VIETNAMESE FEAR OF LARGE NUMBERS OF CHINESE. ALL OF THE RAILROAD WORKERS NORTH OF HANOI ARE NOW CHINESE. THEY WEAR SPECIAL UNIFORMS AND WORK UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF CHINESE CADRES.

7. THERE IS STILL A GOOD FEELING ON THE PART OF NORTH VIETNAMESE IN GENERAL TOWARD THE FRENCH. MANY PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE, SUCH AS DOCTORS WHO HAVE BEEN EDUCATED IN FRANCE, TREAT MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH DELEGATION WITHOUT CHARGE, EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY DISCOURAGES

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CONTACT WITH THE FRENCH AS WELL AS THE USE OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE.

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